



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

with Special Guests from the Contra Costa
County Elections Division

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

U.S. Election Process



Source: U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Voting in the U.S.

- ▶ Ahead of the 2020 General Election, **nearly 88% of eligible Californians** were **registered to vote** – the highest percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote heading into a General Election in the past 80 years.
- ▶ **Nearly 67%** of US citizens 18 years and older voted in the 2020 General Election.
- ▶ **Almost 17.8 million Californians** cast ballots in the 2020 General Election.
- ▶ **46% of voters** said they **voted by absentee or mail-in ballot** in the U.S. 2020 General Election.
- ▶ **Nearly 87%** of all votes cast in California for the 2020 General Election were mail-in ballots.
- ▶ The Brennan Center for Justice, reviewed elections that had been meticulously studied for voter fraud, and found incident rates **between 0.0003% and 0.0025%**.
- ▶ An Associated Press investigation into the 2020 election found **fewer than 475 cases** of voter fraud in six battleground states.

Voting Rights Legislation

The House has passed:

- ▶ **For the People Act (H.R. 1)**

- ▶ Package of **anti-corruption** and **pro-democracy reforms**, including improving access to the ballot box; promoting integrity and security in our elections; guaranteeing disclosure of “dark money” contributions; and strengthening oversight of the campaign finance system.

- ▶ **John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4)**

- ▶ Restores some of the provisions of the original Voting Rights Act that prevent discrimination at the ballot box.

- ▶ **Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act (H.R. 5746)**

- ▶ Improves access to the ballot for all Americans, advances commonsense election integrity reforms, protects our democracy from emerging threats, **restores the Voting Rights Act to its full force**, and protects the rights of Native American voters.

Voting Rights Legislation

Where We Are Now:

- ▶ **In 2021, Senate Republicans blocked action on 3 major voting rights bills** (H.R. 1, H.R. 4, and the Freedom to Vote Act).
- ▶ In January 2022, Senate Republicans blocked the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act (H.R. 5746).
- ▶ Senate Democrats tried to move ahead with an effort to modify the filibuster, which would allow for the passage of voting rights bills with a simple majority, however, Sens. Manchin (D-WV) and Sinema (D-AZ) joined Republicans in opposition.
- ▶ The filibuster has been modified over 160 times before, and it can be modified again to restore the Senate to a place of robust public debate as well as to pass crucial voting rights legislation.

Voting Resources

- ▶ California Secretary of State's Office, Elections Division
 - ▶ Elections and Voter Information: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>
- ▶ Contra Costa County Elections
 - ▶ Registration and Voting Options: <https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/>
 - ▶ My Voting Information tool: <https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/my-voting-information/#VoterLookupandSampleBallotSearch>
- ▶ Mail-In Voting
 - ▶ See where your ballot is after you mail it in: <http://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov>
 - ▶ Or return it to a secure drop box. See the list of Contra Costa County locations: <http://cocovote.us/drop-boxes>